



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

[www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov) • email • [council@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:council@scdd.ca.gov)

1507 21st Street, Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95814



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Arnold Schwarzenegger,  
Governor

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CONTACT: Delia Isabel Soto  
(916) 322-9570

## **NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHOSEN BY STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

SACRAMENTO – Alan Kerzin, who has devoted 25 years of his professional life to improving the lives of persons with developmental disabilities in California, was named Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). He will assume the post on June 15, 2005.

Kerzin was selected by the 29-member, Governor-appointed Council, that is composed of individuals with a developmental disability, parents and family members of people with developmental disabilities and representatives of state agencies that provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Senator Wesley Chesbro, who chairs the Senate Select Committee on Developmental Disabilities, said, "Alan's extensive experience within California's developmental disabilities service system will serve the Council well. As the Executive Director of Area Board IV, Alan set a high standard in establishing an area board that excelled in providing systemic advocacy, education and technical assistance services to the community."

Chesbro, who supported Kerzin's candidacy for the position, added that "Alan has an innovative and collaborative approach to community-building and has a demonstrated ability to provide strong leadership development for consumers and family members."

"Alan brings a wealth of experience to this complex position," said Peter Mendoza, Chair of the State Council. "He is well-connected locally and nationally to the community. His extensive policy background will enable the Council to move forward with its mandate of enhancing the lives of consumers and family members."

"I am thrilled and honored to be chosen for this position," said Kerzin. "It is quite a challenge."

Kerzin managed public and private advocacy organizations in California, serving people with developmental disabilities and their families, including Matrix Parent Network and Resource Center in the North Bay area. He started the Annual Legislative Forum in the North Bay which still operates after 16 years and is recognized as one of the leading disability policy forums in the state. Kerzin also helped bring Partners in Policymaking to California, a nationally recognized leadership training program for consumers and families.

Kerzin is currently Deputy Director for Area Board Operations at the State Council, overseeing 13 Area Board offices. His role is to work toward achieving the mission of the Council by collaboratively advocating, promoting, and implementing policies and practices that achieve self-determination, productivity, and inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families.

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**Phone**

916.322.8481

**Fax**

916.443.4957

**TTY**

916.324.8420